

WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. A shopping cart, comprising:  
a wheeled base having forward and rear portions,  
a container supported by said base,  
a pedestal formed on said base for supporting said container thereon,  
said pedestal being secured to said base at a location  
between the forward and rearward ends of said base,  
said container being supported on said pedestal so that the rear of said container is  
disposed forwardly of the rear of the base.
2. The shopping cart of claim 1, wherein said base includes a handle member  
extending upwardly therefrom, and said container comprises a basket, wherein said  
pedestal includes a surface for supporting the rear of the basket forwardly of the rear of  
the base, and said basket is hung from said handle member at a location disposed a  
substantial distance from the upper part of said handle member, such that said cart  
possesses a lowered center of gravity.
3. The shopping cart of claim 1, wherein said basket includes front, back, bottom,  
and side panels, and said pedestal includes a table portion on which the rear portion of the  
bottom panel of said basket sits.
4. The shopping cart of claim 3, wherein said table portion of said pedestal is  
substantially horizontally arranged.
5. The shopping cart of claim 3, wherein said table portion is slightly inclined  
relative to the base.
6. The shopping cart of claim 5, wherein the back of said table portion is lower than  
the front of said table portion.

7. The shopping cart of claim 1, wherein said handle member includes a U-shaped handle portion at a top end thereof and a pair of connecting rods for connecting said handle member to said pedestal at the rear of said table portion.
8. The shopping cart of claim 2, wherein the lower region of said handle includes a base attachment member having a forward attachment region and a rearward attachment region, said base attachment member being disposed rearwardly of said table portion.
9. The shopping cart of claim 8, wherein said forward attachment region is secured to the table portion and the rearward attachment region is secured to the rear of said base.
10. The shopping cart of claim 9, wherein said forward attachment region of said handle member is secured to the rear portion of said table portion.
11. The shopping cart of claim 1, and further including a pair of vertically spaced apart hinge rods, a first one of said hinge rods being located in the vicinity of the upper end of said handle member and being disposed on said handle member at a height at which the pivoting rear gate of baskets of "conventional" shopping carts are generally hung, and the other of said hinge rods being disposed below said first one of said hinge rods, said lower hinge rod pivotably securing the rear gate of said basket.
12. The shopping cart of claim 10, wherein said pedestal table portion is supported on resilient elements connected to the base, and the space between said basket and said base is minimized to the extent that its use as storage for merchandise has effectively been eliminated.
13. The shopping cart of claim 2, and further including a child seat at the rear of the basket, said child seat being disposed at a height substantially below the height of the upper end of the handle member.

14. The shopping cart of claim 13, wherein said child seat pivots between a non-functional position in which the rear of the child seat is disposed adjacent the rear gate of the basket and a functional position in which the rear of the child seat is pivoted forwardly into the basket.

15. A shopping cart frame, comprising:  
a wheeled base having forward and rear portions,  
a pedestal formed on said base for supporting a container thereon,  
said pedestal being mounted to said base at a location  
between the forward and rearward ends of said base,  
said pedestal further including surface means for engaging the container and holding it such that the rear of the container is disposed forwardly of the rear of the base, and at a height relative to the base which is substantially lower than the height at which containers in "conventional" shopping carts are disposed,  
whereby when a container is mounted on the cart frame, the frame and container together exhibit a lower center of gravity than the center of gravity exhibited by container and frame combinations of "conventional" shopping carts.

16. The shopping cart frame of claim 15, wherein said base includes side rails and casters mounted to the side rails for enabling rolling movement of said base on a horizontal surface, and further including a handle assembly mounted to said base, said handle assembly comprising vertically arranged spine members extending upwardly from said base, said spine members being laterally spaced apart and terminating in a handle defining a handle plane, said spine members including a pair of vertically spaced apart horizontal rod members disposed substantially normal to said spine members and being located between said handle plane and said base assembly.

17. The shopping cart frame of claim 16, wherein the upper one of said rod members lies substantially nearly in said handle plane, and the lower one of said rod members is disposed at a height corresponding with, and forming the pivot connection for, the pivoting rear gate of said container.

18. The shopping cart frame of claim 17, wherein said pedestal surface means and the lower one of said rod members are arranged relative to one another such that when said container is disposed on said pedestal surface means, the container and the pivot connection for the rear gate of the container will be located substantially below said handle plane.

19. The shopping cart frame of claim 16, and further including connecting rods projecting from said spine members forwardly and downwardly into securement with the rear of said pedestal for supporting said pedestal against excessive longitudinal forces.

20. The shopping cart frame of claim 16, and further including resilient support elements connected between said pedestal and said side rails of said base for supporting said pedestal against excessive vertical forces.

21. The shopping cart frame of claim 15, wherein the width of the rear portion of the wheeled base is substantially greater than the width of the forward portion of the wheeled base.

22. The shopping cart of claim 1, wherein the width of the rear portion of the wheeled base is substantially greater than the width of the forward portion of the wheeled base.